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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany REPORT NO. _____TOPIC COTTBUS AirfieldEVALUATION See below PLACE OBTAINED _____ 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT _____
DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 10 January 1950

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____ 25X1

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1. There was no flying at the COTTBUS (W 52/A 57) airfield during the afternoon of 21 November 1949 although the weather was fine. Twenty-seven Pe-2s were parked in rows of six to nine planes each in front of the closed hangars. The engine and nose of all planes were covered with tarpaulins. The upper section of the double rudder assembly was painted blue.

2. Two versions of the Pe-2 type were seen (Annexes 1 and 2). The third plane in each row was a Pe-2 version as reproduced on sketch 2. All planes had the same rod, looking like a Pitot-tube, atop their cockpit. The rod, about five feet high, had a thick cross piece at its upper section and a thin cross piece below. One, possibly two wires connected the rod with the rudder assembly. The Pe-2 version on sketch 2 had a machine gun firing to the rear. Both versions had a small point atop the vaulted cabin roof. The sketches are considered relatively accurate.

3. An AA gun emplacement was on the southern edge of the landing field. A gun with an about 8-foot barrel, of 40-mm to 50-mm caliber and a small three-sectional protection shield was observed. It was surrounded by a small earth wall. A light searchlight, auxiliary billets and a radio mast were nearby. Forty to fifty soldiers wearing black epaulets practiced on the landing field.

4. During the day 10 railroad tank cars went by the narrow-gauge railway on the field spur track to the COTTBUS railroad station. The tank cars, two-axle, normal construction of the German railway, were carried on special undercarriages. About 15 cars with coal were unloaded at the field.

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5. Thirty-eight twin-engine aircraft with double rudder assembly were parked in front of the open and empty hangars of the field on 26 November 1949. There was no flying.

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6. The AA gun emplacement on the southwestern edge of the field did not have seven guns, as previously reported, but only four medium guns. There was intensive training at the emplacements. Newly excavated AA machine gun emplacements were seen on the edge of the woods.

7.



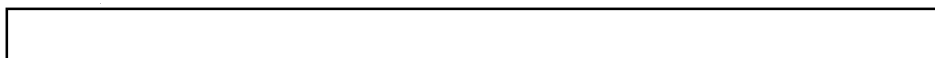
8. On 19 November 1949 10 railroad tank cars with a capacity of about 18 tons each were standing on the spur track at the northern edge of the field. All tank cars had the inscription "Utilize for paraldehyde only".

☐ Comment:

a. The reported occupation agrees with previous reports by other sources. It is assumed that a bomber regiment equipped with about 40 Pe-2s is stationed at the field. From the information that the nose of the planes was covered with tarpaulins it is concluded that it is made of plexiglass (thus the plane is a Pe-2 and not a Pe-3 type).

b. The two versions of the Pe-2 type are confirmed by various sources and were also observed in STRAUSSBERG and WERTICHER. The model designations of both versions are not known. The described rod atop the front section of the cockpit is apparently on both aircraft versions. It is assumed that this is a new method of fitting the Pitot-tube. The fixed antenna leading to the rudder assembly is also apparently attached to the rod. The purpose of the cupola-like structure atop the cockpit is unknown. It may serve for astronomical measurements (celestial navigation), but no information on the use of celestial navigation by Soviet bomber units has been received.

c. The existence of an AA gun emplacement on the edge of the field has been confirmed by other sources.



e. It is not known for what purpose paraldehyde is being used.

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